Coures Title - Ethics and Values in Ancient Indian Traditions

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- To understand the rich cultural traditions relating to discourses on life and its purpose, instilling of values relating to ethical and moral propriety.
- To make students more engaged with the past traditions of the country.
- To introduce students to early epics: Puranic, Buddhist and other traditions.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

- Students will develop an overview of indigenous philosophies.
- Understanding the richness of Indian heritage leading to greater sensitivity.
- Inspiration from history to deal with contemporary issues.
- Appreciate the traditions of diversity, discussions, debates and knowledge transmission.

Syllabus of *Ethics and Values in Ancient Indian Traditions*

Unit I The idea of India and Bharat
1. 'Jambudvipa'; 'Aryavrata'; 'Bharat' ; India 2. Early discourse on moral order- ṛta in Vedic traditions 3. Debates in the Upanishads and the Shramanic traditions
Unit II State, Society and Dharma
1. Kingship and Society: *Dharma, Neeti* and *Daṇḍa* 2. Rashtra, Sanskar and making of socio-cultural milieu
Unit III The 'Purpose of Life' in Texts
1. 'Right Conduct': Buddhist, Jaina and Shramanic Traditions 2. Puruṣārtha Chatushtaya*: Dharma, Artha, Kāma and Mokṣa* 3. Assimilation and Assertion: Ethical issues in Epics and Puranic traditions

Practical/ Practice Component

- Discuss in your locality, in 10-15 households with regard to Ethics and Values in Indian traditions:
  - Vedic traditions
  - Puruṣārtha Chatushtaya
  - Buddhist, Jaina and Shramanic Traditions
  - Jambudvipa; Aryavrata; Bharat; India
- Students are required to explore e-resources available with University of Delhi and other academic institutions.

- Students are required to watch documentaries and films on the subject-related topics.
- If required, students can share their experiences in the form of a Project Report.
- Students may share their experiences in the form of audio-visual presentations of 15-30 minutes.
- Any other Practical/Practice as decided from time to time

Essential Readings

Buietenen, J.A.B. Van, *The Bhagwadgita in the Mahabharata: Text and Translation.* Chicago: Chicago University Press, 1981. Bhagwadgita by Geeta Press Gorakhpur.

Bhasham, A.L, *Wonder that was India: A Survey of the Culture of the Indian Subcontinent Before the Coming of the Muslims.* London, Sidgwick and Jackson, 1954

Dasgupta, S. N. *History of Indian Philosophy*. Cambridge University Press, 1923, Vol. I-II.

Hiltebeital, Alf. *Rethinking the Mahabharata: A Reader's Guide to the Education of the Dharma King.* Chicago: Chicago University Press, 2001.

Kane, P.V. *History of Dharmashastra (Ancient and Medieval Religious and Civil Law),* vol. II, parts 1-2; vol. III 3rd ed. Pune: Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute,[1941, 1946].

Olivelle, Patric. King, Governance, and Law in Ancient India: Kautilya's Arthashastra. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2013.

Sharma, Arvind. 'On Hindu, Hindustan, Hinduism and Hindutva'. Numen, 49(1), 2002, p. 1-36.

Suggested Readings

Olivelle, Patric. (text and trans.) *Manu's Code of Law: A Critical Edition and Translation of the Manava-Dharmashastra.* New Delhi: Oxford University Press, 2006.

Rocher, Ludo. 'The Concept of Boundaries in Classical India', in Peter Gaefkke and David A. Utz (eds.), *The Countries of South Asia: Boundries, Extensions, and Interrelations*

Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania, Department of South Asia Regional Studies (Proceedings of The South Asia Seminar, III, 1982-1983), 1988, p. 3-10.

Sukthankar, V.S., S.K. Belvalkar, and P.L. Vaidya(ed.). *The Mahabharata.* Poona: Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute, 1933-66.

Tripathi, Radhavallabh, ed. *India's Intellectual Traditions: A Revealed Through Sanskrit Sources*. New Delhi: Sahitya Akademi, 2016.

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